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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 24 February 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the letter of H.E. President Soeharto of the Republic of Indonesia, Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, to the President of the Security Council, conveying the views of the Movement on the latest developments concerning the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nugroho WISNUMURTI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 24 February 1994 from the President of Indonesia, Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, I have the honour to convey to Your Excellency, in your capacity as President of the Security Council during the month of February 1994, the views of the Movement regarding the current situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The non-aligned countries remain deeply concerned over the armed aggression, genocide and practice of "ethnic cleansing" being perpetrated against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a sovereign State Member of the United Nations, and its people. Despite condemnation from the international community and numerous resolutions adopted by the Security Council, a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multireligious society is being exterminated. In fact, the non-aligned countries consider the continued Serbian aggression to be a result of the failure of the international community to implement those very Security Council resolutions which would defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which millions of people have become uprooted, two thirds of the country has become occupied and significant loss of innocent lives has occurred. Compounding this failure is the arms embargo imposed against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which continues to deny that country its most fundamental sovereign right of self-defence. The indiscriminate bombing of a market place in Sarajevo, where nearly 70 innocent people were killed and hundreds wounded, is the latest brutality perpetrated against the Bosnian people.

While the non-aligned countries are aware that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ultimatum threatening air strikes against Serbian positions surrounding the besieged capital, Sarajevo, appears to have been met with the withdrawal of Serbian heavy weapons from the 20-kilometre exclusionary zone around Sarajevo, there remains a clear and present need to remain vigilant and ensure full compliance, resulting in a true lifting of the siege. The United Nations must ensure that the heavy weapons already withdrawn will not be deployed in other areas which would enable the Serbs to launch further attacks on the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is therefore imperative that the Security Council be convened with the aim of addressing as a matter of urgency the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and of taking concrete and effective measures to implement all relevant Security Council resolutions, especially resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993). This would include such measures as to ensure the effective lifting of the siege of Sarajevo, as well as of other besieged towns in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and especially of "safe areas". The non-aligned countries welcome the cease-fire now in effect in Sarajevo and the surrounding area as an important step towards compliance with Security Council resolutions. They would, however, underline that hostilities continue elsewhere throughout the country, and the urgency of the Security Council enforcing a comprehensive cessation of all armed conflict so as to strengthen the political process.

Taking into account the recent developments, I believe that there is a real need to review the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), and to revise it in such a manner that it will be able to meet its requirements to prevent further aggression by Serbian forces, ensuring access of humanitarian aid.

I should clearly indicate to the Council that the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries are strongly opposed and will not support any proposal that would place Sarajevo under the administrative control of the United Nations. Such an action will deprive the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina of its right to exercise its sovereignty over its capital. The city of Sarajevo is the political capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It stands, moveover, as that nation's symbol of resistance to brutality, aggression and genocide. To have survived thus far and endured countless hardships, it is inconceivable that it should ultimately come to be placed under foreign control, albeit the United Nations.

In the light of the new momentum for peace negotiations, resulting from the withdrawal of the Serbian heavy artillery from the Sarajevo exclusionary zone, and in view of the failure of the existing Geneva peace process, it is incumbent upon the international community, and in particular the Security Council, to consider devising a new mechanism for negotiations among the parties to the conflict, including the feasibility of convening an appropriately structured international conference, with the aim of achieving a just and final solution. Such a solution must be based on the full respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Consistent with the commitment of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to contribute to the efforts to reach a just and final solution to the question of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Movement stands ready to take part in such an appropriately structured international conference or in any new negotiating process.

The States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries strongly urge the Security Council to take the necessary measures to protect the sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and demonstrate in the process its effectiveness for maintaining international peace and security. In this connection, the non-aligned countries are prepared to assist you and other interested parties in the realization of a just and lasting peace in that strife-torn country. To that end, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries is in the process of forming a Task Force on Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will coordinate the position of its members and work in cooperation with the United Nations.

(Signed) SOEHARTO
President of the Republic of Indonesia